

Ethnic Gambling Case

Mary is a 45-year old African American female. She is employed as a Manager and has worked successfully at the same company for 20 years. She is respected at her job. However, she has been referred for treatment for gambling addiction by her EAP Counselor. During the intake session with the EAP Counselor, Mary admitted that she also abuses alcohol. Mary reports spending \$150 a week on lottery tickets. She also is in charge of a lottery pool at her job and collects money from employees. Mary's mother died 2 months ago and her lottery purchases and drinking has increased. She ran out of money in her checking account to pay her bills. For the first time, she took money from the bonus account to purchase lottery tickets. When the money was unaccounted for at the end of the month, Mary confessed taking out the "lottery loan." Mary reported that she is very religious and is active in her church. She has felt tremendous sadness from her mother's death and is reports finding comfort through her religious faith. Mary admits drinking and gambling makes her "feel" better.

Identify assessment issues?

What might be cultural factors to consider within the treatment process (e.g., gender, ethnicity, religion)?